

External Product test "Jobo Jib2" (Feb. 2012)**First Impression / Accessories**

Action camera in very compact size.

The first thing you notice when unpacking the JOBO JIB2 is the comprehensive accessory package included. In Addition to the water-proof housing and head strap JOBO has even included a bicycle mount, a helmet mount, and a universal bracket. It is also far above standard to find included both a home-charger and a car-charger. An additional advantage is the fact that the included accessories seem compatible with other action cameras. Even a small bag for camera without housing is included. An AV cable, which allows for direct connection to a regular TV is equally included. This is often offered as optional accessory only by most other manufacturers.

**Product appearance**

At first glance the small and handy design remind of the market leader GoPro, but the finish of the camera makes a better and more solid impression.

The water-proof housing (60 meters) is very strong-built and also protects the camera against drops during the action. The buttons are clearly marked and easy to use. The camera appears well designed and suited for heavy use in rugged environment. All connectors are protected with rubber covers, which gives good resistance to dust and spray-water even if the water-proof housing is not being used.

**USE**

Until today I have been a GoPro user. The user interface (UI) of the JOBO JIB 2 is an obvious plus. The UI is divided into 3 sections. This is very helpful and allows for quick adjustments or for instant playback of new recordings. The well-placed buttons allow quick and intuitive handling for anybody - even in the frenzy of hectic recordings. This is a big advantage compared to the prevalent "two button design" of many other action cameras which inevitably leads to a cumbersome search for the requested feature. The built-in monitor also helps to find, adjust and control the proper viewing angle of the capture, just as much as it allows for instant playback of the recordings.

I took the camera along for the snowboard holidays. Since playback is accessible with the press of one button it was always possible to view the last down-hill recording on the way up in the ski-lift to allow for better adjustments and fine-tuning for the next down-hill recordings.

If in need of a bigger screen the JOBO JIB 2 can be attached to any modern TV by means of a mini HDMI cable for full HD playback. The on-screen menu is also shown via HDMI connection.

The JIB 2 has two separate buttons for video and photo. This saves precious time when adjusting between these 2 modes. The required flash card format is micro-SD. I would always recommend a large capacity as changing such tiny flash cards can be a bit of a challenge in cold environments.

Both the camera and the waterproof housing have a tripod bush. This is extremely advantageous and offers all the wonderful options of tripod-use. In addition various pads allow creative camera mounting for good recordings.

The internal battery can be re-charged either with the included AC-adapter or by use of the included car-charger, or by USB-charging.



Functions

The JOBO JIB 2 allows not only for 720P but also for full HD 1080 P recordings. This is clearly above standard. The camera always records with 30 (1080p) or 60 (720p) frames per second (fps). The frequency can be adjusted to the typical European 50 Hz without effect on the fps-rate. In full HD mode the camera allows 3x digital zoom, which renders acceptable results - but as always the digital zoom results in lower resolution in contrast to an optical zoom.

Not all action cams make recordings with 60 fps. But as with every camera it takes a bit of experience to judge in which angle the camera should best be operated.

I measured the following (horizontal) viewing angle. (The viewing angle mentioned by most action camera manufacturers is measured as a vertical angle - and is thus greater than the traditional - horizontal - viewing angle):

WVGA:100 degrees
QVGA:80 degrees
720p: 105 degrees
1080p:80 degrees

The videos are recorded in H264 format as MOV container. The bitrate is 5,6 Mbit/sec. This is a bit higher than youtube rate.

The photos offer a larger viewing angle than the videos, which makes it a bit easier to capture the action – especially with quick moving objects (viewing angle 120 – 130 degrees). Photos are saved in JPG format with 3 or 5 MP (or optionally with interpolated 8 MP). The camera even allows a delayed release which is great for self-portraits. The only things to miss for truly professional recordings is a connector for an external mic or the slow-motion recording.

Quality

White snow and little contrast are hard for every camera to grasp. But as soon as the sun is out great pictures and videos come to life. The photo quality is even more impressive than the video quality, with rich colors and high contrast. Obviously recording quality (in particular the contrast) is enhanced when the water-proof housing is not being used while recording.

Resume

As Go-Pro User the ease of use and quick adjustability of the JIB 2 have impressed me.

The well-designed menu and quick access to the separate photo and video shutter release clearly make the JIB 2 stand apart from the GoPro HD 2. The image quality of the action camera cannot quite keep up with the high quality product mechanics. All in all the JIB 2 creates excellent results and offers great value for money.



Comparison chart:

	Jobo Jib 2	Gopro HD 2 outdoor
MSRP	249 EUR	349 EUR
Resolution video	1080p - 30fps, 720p - 60fps, WVGA - 60fps QVGA - 30fps	1080p - 25/30 fps 720p - 50/60 fps 960p - 50/60 fps WVGA -50/60/100/120 fps
Resolution still	8,5,3 Mpix	11,8,5 Mpix
WP (depth)	30 m	60 m
Time lapse	yes	yes
Separate button for photo / video	yes	no
Extra menu button	yes	no
LCD screen	yes	optional
HDMI / AV out	yes (with OSD)	yes
Wide angle video	105°	160°
Wide angle photo	130°	160°
Digital zoom	yes	no
Optical zoom	no	3 stages in 1080p modus
USB charger	yes	yes
Sensor	1/2,5 CMOS - 5 mpix	1/2,5 CMOS - 11 mpix
Remote control	no	optional
Mic in	no	yes
Loop recording	yes	no
Data rate Video	circa 760 KB / second	circa 1840 KB / second
Accessories	water proof housing, battery AV cable, charger, car charger, USB cable, bike mount, car mount, helmet mount, pouch, hand line, manual	water proof housing, battery USB cable, helmet mount, 2 curved, adhesive mounts, swivel arm twofold, manual